

war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This short, but furious and deadly, conflict stemmed from historical differences regarding geographic territory based on ethnicity and religion. I do not pretend to know the details of this conflict. The seeds for this conflict were sown decades ago, perhaps even a century ago, with the advent of the Soviet Union as well as the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

Here is what I do know. The Armenians and the Azerbaijanis deserve to live and prosper in peace. Nations require territorial integrity. The boundaries of a given nation should also reflect history, ethnicity, and religious differences to minimize conflict.

I am hopeful for the future that these two nations, both with a proud and great history, will be able to resume their relationship in peace and that the parties work, in good faith, to resolve their issues without bullets.

God bless the people there and through His will it is my hope peace will prevail.

HONORING PATRICIA THOMPSON

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Thompson and wish her well in her retirement after 43 years of dedicated service to the township of Willingboro, New Jersey.

Patricia first joined the Willingboro Police Department in 1978 as a traffic guard and since day one, she has been a comforting presence to Willingboro students and residents. Having lived in the town for most of her life, I was not surprised to hear that throughout her tenure, Patricia was eager to take on additional responsibilities like overseeing the bicycle auction. Her commitment to Willingboro earned her a promotion to Crossing Guard Supervisor in 2011, where she has been a vital addition to training the next generation of crossing guards.

On behalf of our entire district, I want to thank Patricia for her tireless commitment to the township of Willingboro, New Jersey. I wish Patricia every enjoyment in retirement with her husband and children.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE LABLONDE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life of George LaBlonde, who passed away recently after a lifetime of service. Through his extreme dedication to the public good, George became an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.

A native Yooper, George was born in Ironwood, Michigan, on October 17, 1938. He was raised in Ironwood and graduated from Luther L. Wright High School in 1956. With a deep-rooted drive to serve others, George furthered his education at the Michigan Col-

lege of Mining and Technology in 1960 while also earning a commission as a Second Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He went on to attend several other prestigious institutions including Purdue University, the U.S. Army War College, the Department of Defense Language Institute, the Army Command and General Staff College, and completed numerous other specialized courses. In addition to his impressive and comprehensive military education, George's 30 years of service earned him several honors and decorations including the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, the Parachute Badge, amongst many others. As a retired Marine myself, I greatly appreciate the longtime devotion George gave to our Nation.

George passed away on October 29, 2021. His steadfast care and friendly nature towards all members of his community will surely leave a lasting mark on those who had the opportunity to know him. He is missed dearly by his family and friends, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on for generations to come. George's tireless dedication to public service touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of George LaBlonde. His legacy will forever live on in his family and in the many lives he bettered through his service.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE LEONARD AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to thank Christine Leonard for her service to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Christine came to the Committee as part of a career focused on judiciary and criminal justice issues. Before joining the Committee as Counsel, Christine had a long history of working closely with the Committee in various roles, including as Counsel to Rep. Delahunt, Senior Counsel to Sen. Ted Kennedy, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as the Director of the Vera Institute of Justice's DC Office, Executive Director of the Coalition for Public Safety, and as Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Christine received her B.A. and J.D. from Boston College.

Christine joined our Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security as Counsel in 2020 and has played an integral role in our prison and drug enforcement reform work. Among other things, she also played a critical role in helping to advance my bill, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act—which would reverse failed federal policies criminalizing

marijuana and would take steps to address the heavy toll this policy has taken across the country, particularly among communities of color—through the Committee.

The Committee and the country at large have benefited greatly from Christine's dedication to reforming our criminal justice system and ensuring our laws are equitably applied. We will greatly miss her strong work ethic and passion for justice, as she takes the next step in her career.

We thank Christine for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIAN MASON

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Brian Mason. Lt. Colonel Mason enlisted as a medic on Active Duty in 1985. He served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm as a medic on a Forward Area Surgical Team assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade (Airborne), and his unit was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation. He commissioned as an Engineer Officer in 2002 assigned to the 875th Engineer Battalion then deployed as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer with the 239th Engineer Company, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Iraq in 2003 through 2005. He has had various full-time duty assignments in the AGR program, culminating now as a member the Adjutant Generals' special staff, State Public Affairs Officer and Director of Communications.

He was an Assistant Professor of Military Science and Executive Officer of the Red Wolf Battalion when U.S. Army Cadet Command tried to eliminate the program at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He also served two years in the command position, the Professor of Military Science, bringing the program back from closure and into viability standards. During his six and a half years at Arkansas State University, he commissioned 102 officers for the Active Duty Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.

Upon retirement, Lt. Colonel Mason and his wife, Loretta, plan to enjoy their grandchildren and hiking. He will continue teaching classes as an Adjunct Faculty member at Arkansas State University for the College of Nursing and Health Profession's Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management program. I thank Lt. Colonel Mason for 36 years of total service and 26 years of Active Duty service to our Nation, State and community.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 12, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join